



*Send to Sir James
B. 25. 9*

CIRCULAR TO INSPECTORS.

Empire Day.

At a meeting of the Dominion Educational Association held at Halifax, Nova Scotia, in August, 1898, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

“Resolved that the Association recommends that the School Day immediately preceding the 24th of May be set apart as ‘Empire Day,’ and that the Education Department in the Provinces and Territories be respectfully requested to arrange for such exercises in their respective schools as will tend to the increase of a sound patriotic feeling.”

The Council of Public Instruction for the Province of Nova Scotia and the Protestant Section of the Council of Public Instruction for Quebec, have already acted on the recommendation above stated, and the Education Department of Ontario, on the 1st day of March, 1899, adopted the following Minute:—

“The School Day immediately preceding the 24th of May shall be devoted specially to the study of the history of Canada in its relation to the British Empire and to such other exercises as might tend to increase the interest of the pupils in the history of their own country and strengthen their attachment to the Empire to which they belong—such day to be known as ‘Empire Day.’”

According to the Minute quoted above, “Empire Day” this year falls on Tuesday, the 23rd of May. It is not necessary that I should specify in detail how the day should be observed. The outline given below might be taken generally as a guide to teachers and trustees:—

THE FORENOON.

Part of the forenoon might be occupied with a familiar talk by the teacher on the British Empire, its extent and resources; the relation of Canada to the Empire; the unity of the Empire and its advantages; the privileges which, as British subjects, we enjoy; the extent of Canada and its resources; readings from Canadian and British authors by the teacher; interesting historical incidents in connection with our own country. The aim of the teacher in all his references to Canada and the Empire should be, to make Canadian patriotism intelligent, comprehensive and strong.

THE AFTERNOON.

The afternoon, commencing at 2.30 P.M., might be occupied with patriotic recitations, songs, readings by the pupils and speeches by trustees, clergymen and such other persons as may be available.

The trustees and public generally should be invited to be present at these exercises.

During the day the British Flag or Canadian Ensign should be hoisted over the school building.

Will you kindly inform the teachers of your Inspectoral District of the action of the Department and of the purposes of "Empire Day" as herein set forth.

GEO. W. ROSS,

Minister of Education.

Education Department, Toronto.

March, 1899.

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Copy of a Minute of the Department of Education
dated the 1st day of March A. D., 1899.

Upon consideration of the report of the Honourable
the Minister of Education, dated the 16th day of February,
A.D., 1899, the Department of Education doth hereby order
that the School day immediately preceding the 24th day of
May shall be specially devoted to the study of the History
of Canada in its relation to the British Empire, and to
such other exercises as might tend to increase the interest
of the pupils in the history of their own country and
strengthen their attachment to the empire to which they
belong - such day to be known as "Empire Day."

Certified ,

Lonsdale Capreol

(signed)

Asst.Clerk, Executive Council.

Original in Room 123

